

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20 DRC-01 /114 W

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O P 230844Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0192

INFO /AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY 5250

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 8574

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF NEW PRIME MINISTER LIJ

MICHAEL IMRU

REF: (A) ADDIS 8570 NOTAL

(B) ADDIS 8494

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE (REFTEL) RADIO ETHIOPIA AT 2000 HOURS ON JULY 22 ANNOUNCED THAT EMPEROR HAD APPOINTED LIJ MICHAEL IMRU, FORMERLY MINISTER IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, TO BE PRIME MINISTER OF ETHIOPIA VICE LIJ ENDEKACHEW MAKONNEN WHO WAS "RELIEVED OF HIS POST." ANNOUNCEMENT STILL BEING AIRED MORNING JULY 23 TO SUPPLEMENT PRESS COVERAGE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT WHICH CONTAINS FOLLOWING NOTEWORTHY POINTS:

(A) LIJ MICHAEL IMRU'S APPOINTMENT TO PREMIERSHIP WAS PROPOSED BY ARMED FORCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE (AFCC).

(B) IN STATEMENT ISSUED ON THAT OCCASION AFCC

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THANKED EMPEROR FOR STEPS ALREADY TAKEN BY HIM

TO REVISE EMPIRE'S CONSTITUTION "TO GIVE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE A MORE REPRESENTATIVE AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT." COUNTRY'S PRESENT SITUATION, SHADOWED BY WORLD'S ECONOMIC CRISIS, HAD BEEN MADE WORSE BY MALADMINISTRATION. ALLOWING SITUATION TO CONTINUE WOULD ONLY HAVE AGGRAVATED MATTERS THEREBY TARNISHING "THE PRESTIGE OF YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY." AFCC INTENDED BUILD ON FOUNDATION LAID BY EMPEROR TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS.

(C) AFCC WILL RESIST ALL OPPONENTS "OF EMPEROR AND CROWN."

(D) AFCC INTENDS "TRANSITION" TO INTRODUCTION RAISED CONSTITUTION AND "ASSIGNMENT" OF NEW PRIME MINISTER THEREUNDER TO BE PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY.

(E) ENDELKACHEW MAKONNEN "THE OUTGOING PRIME MINISTER WHO WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE OLD CABINET" HAD SIDED WITH HIS FORMER COLLEAGUES, NOW DETAINED, COULD NOT SUBSCRIBE TO AFCC'S "ETHIOPIA FIRST" PHILOSOPHY, AND, BESIDES HAVING BEEN AN "OBSTACLE" TO A SMOOTH TRANSITION, HAD ATTEMPTED CREATE DISSENSION AMONG ARMED FORCES. ACCORDINGLY AFCC HAD "HUMBLY" REQUESTED EMPEROR TO RELIEVE HIM OF HIS POST.

(F) AFCC HAD PRIOR TO ITS SELECTION LIJ MICHAEL IMRU CONTACTED "SOME PEOPLE TO ASSUME PREMEIRSHIP AT THIS CRITICAL TIME..BUT SOME HAD DECLINED..." AMONG THEM H.E. HADDIS ALEMAYEHU, SENATOR.

(G) ACCORDINGLY, AFCC "WHICH FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT ADMINISTRATION OF THE COUNTRY SHOULD BE HEADED BY CIVILIAN" REQUESTED EMPEROR TO APPOINT LIJ MICHAEL IMRU AS NEXT PRIME MINISTER.

2. ADDIS POPULACE RECEIVED THIS NEWS CALMLY, AND INITIAL REACTION TO DATE AVAILABLE EMBASSY SUGGEST MOST ARE SATISFIED BOTH WITH APPOINTMENT LIJ MICHAEL AND WITH ENDELKACHEW'S OUSTING. FLAG DECKED CITY TODAY CELEBRATING EMPEROR'S 82ND ANNIVERSARY WITH CUSTOMARY 21-FUN SALUTE, PALACE RECEPTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF NOTABLES, CHURCH SERVICES ET AL. EMPEROR, WHO SAID HAVE BEEN UNDER THE WEATHER FOR LAST SEVERAL DAYS, AGAIN REPORTEDLY WELL ENOUGH TO OFFICIATE AT THESE FUNCTIONS.

3. WE HAVE UNCONFIRMED REPORT TO WHICH WE INCLINED GIVE CREDENCE THAT FORMER PRIME MINISTER ENDELKACHEW ALREADY DETAINED WITH HIS PEERS AT 4TH DIVISION

HEADQUARTERS.

4. COMMENTS TO FOLLOW IN SEPTEL.

DECONTROL ON RECEIPT.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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